GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2606
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2003
PROTECTION OF HANDLOOM SECTOR
CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 aims at preventing powerlooms from encroaching upon the livelihood of millions depending upon the handloom sector;

(b) if so, the results it has produced as on date, State-wise; and

(c) if not, the action taken against the powerloom owners found violating the Act during the last three years?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)

(a) The Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 was promulgated in pursuance of theTextile Policy of 1985 which aims at protecting the interests of millions of handloom weavers from the encroachment made on their livelihood by the powerlooms and the organised mill sector. At present 11 categories of textile articles are reserved for exclusive production by the handloom sector. For effective implementation of the Act, powers have been delegated to officers of various levels authorised in the Central and State enforcement machinery. Furthermore, to supplement the efforts of the State Government, funds are released under the scheme for implementing the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 for establishingan Enforcement Machinery in the States. As pernorms laid down under the scheme, 14 states are eligible to avail of assistance but only 12 states have been taking assistance from the Central Government.The states of Maharashtra and Punjab have established enforcement machineries of their own and are implementing the Act.

(b) and (c) Under the Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 and the orders issued thereunder, the State and Central Enforcement Machineries have so far registered 156 FIRs, out of which 114 cases have ended in conviction and 42 cases are pending in the lower courts in various parts of the country.